GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3227
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2007
USE OF NANO-TECHNOLOGY TO FILTER THE POLLUTED WATER
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the technique of nano-technology to purify and filter the polluted water is available in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to extend this technology within the reach of common man for the purpose of purifying the polluted water; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Nano-technology has been successfully employed by Indian scientists to develop appropriate technologies for filtering contaminated water for drinking purposes. For example, water filters using nanosilver and nanogold particles have been developed by scientists at International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad and Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai. These filters have been field tested and are commercially available in the country. The Government has recently launched a Mission on Nano Science and Technology (Nano Mission) to promote research and development in the field of Nano Science and Technology with an allocation Rs. 1000 crore for 5 years. Pure drinking water is an identified priority area for the Nano Mission. In addition, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched a new Water Technology Initiative in the 11th Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 50 crores, to support development, field trials, pilot scale demonstration and replication on limited scale of indigenously developed technologies focusing on low-cost and simple-to-use household systems for providing safe drinking water.